

Message Text

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12
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

IO-13 /042 W
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P R 020950Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9272
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL GOTEBORG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 6650

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, CH, SW
SUBJECT: COURTESY CALL ON PRC AMBASSADOR

REF: STATE 291867

1. PAID A COURTESY CALL ON PRC AMBASSADOR CH'IN AND HIS
WIFE ON DECEMBER 1. THE FOLLOWING POINTS WERE DEVELOPED
DURING CONVERSATION:

1. AMBASSADOR CH'IN OBSERVED THAT BOTH PRESIDENTS
NIXON AND FORD HAS MET THE WIFE OF THE LATE PREMIER
CHOU-EN-LAI. HE THEN STATED THAT THE THIRD CONGRESS NOW
MEETING IN PEKING HAS JUST ELECTED MRS. CHOU-EN-LAI AS
VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE, OBSERVING THAT
IN THIS CAPACITY SHE WOULD RECEIVE FOREIGN DIGNITARIES.
THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE BELIEVED THIS NEWS WOULD BE ANNOUNCED
SOON.

2. THE AMBASSADOR'S OLDEST DAUGHTER, AGED 35, WORKS IN
PRC EMBASSY IN NAIROBI, AD DOES HER HUSBAND. OTHER
CHILDREN, SON AND DAUGHTER, ARE NOT INTERESTED IN LANGUAGES
OR DIPLOMACY AND CONCENTRATE ON LITERATURE.

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3. THE AMBASSADOR AND HIS WIFE STILL OWN THEIR HOUSE IN PEKING IN WHICH THEY STAY WHEN THEY RETURN ON ANNUAL VACATION. THEY DO NOT RENT IT WHEN ABROAD BUT ALLOW THEIR CHILDREN TO LIVE IN IT.

4. THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE WAS NOT PLANNING TO RETURN TO PEKING NOW. PRC AMBASSADORS ARE ALLOWED ONE VACATION ANNUALLY AND ALWAYS GO BACK TO PEKING. AS THEY WERE RECENTLY THERE, THEY HAVE NO PLANS TO RETURN. (REFTEL).

5. ASKED WHETHER HE HAD MET AMBASSADOR THOMAS GATES, THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE, BUT OBSERVED THAT HE "WAS SURE" AMBASSADOR GATES WAS NOT HAVING ANY DIFFICULTIES IN PEKING. I REPLIED I HOPED NOT, AND HE SAID HE DID NOT MEAN DIFFICULTIES WITH MATERIAL THINGS.

6. CH'IN LI-CHEN EXPRESSED THE HOPE FOR IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

7. COMMENT: CH'IN SEEMED RELAXED, CHEERFUL, FRIENDLY AND IN GOOD HEALTH. ASIDE FROM SEVERAL REFERENCES TO THE FACT THAT TEA IS GOOD FOR THE DIGESTION, HEALTH WAS NOT MENTIONED. AT RECENT DIPLOMATIC RECEPTIONS I HAVE NOTICED THAT HE OFTEN SITS DOWN WHILE MOST OTHER DIPLOMATS REMAIN STANDING FOR AN HOUR OR TWO. CH'IN OCCASIONALLY INTERRUPTED TO CORRECT THE INTERPRETER IN ENGLISH, WHICH HE SPEAKS MODERATELY WELL. HIS WIFE SPOKE ONLY A WORD OR TWO IN ENGLISH WHILE CARRYING ON A CONVERSATION WITH MRS. SMITH THROUGH AN INTERPRETER.
SMITH

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